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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Covenant House
(Special consultative status granted in 1985)

The aims of Covenant House are: to identify and address the problems of the urban poor, especially homeless, runaway and street children and youth; to identify their social, psychological and physical problems and to address them and to increase public awareness of the need for effective youth care facilities. Covenant House achieves these aims by providing crisis and transitional residential care and supportive services to more than 75,000 runaway and homeless youth per year. Covenant House is located at twenty-one sites throughout the United States of America, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Services include street outreach, food and shelter, transitional housing, family reintegration, medical and nutritional assistance, job preparation and training, educational support, legal assistance as well as both substance abuse and mental health counseling. Covenant House also conducts extensive advocacy on behalf of all children.

In 2001 and 2002, Covenant House served as a member of the Steering Committee for the NGO Committee on UNICEF for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session for Children. The Steering Group was responsible for organizing all NGO activities during the Preparatory Committees and the Special Session itself. Covenant House participated in a planning session of the Steering Group for the Second Preparatory Committee on January 22, 2001 at UNICEF, New York. Covenant House also was actively involved in the sessions of the Second Preparatory Committee from January 29 until February 2, 2001 that were conducted at the United Nations in New York.

Covenant House continued as an active participant at additional Steering Group meetings at UNICEF House in New York on March 26, April 2, April 4, April 9, April 19, April 23, May 7, May 14, May 21, May 30 and June 4. Covenant House again was extensively involved in the sessions of the Third Preparatory Committee at the United Nations in New York, June 9 through June15, 2001. On July 2, 2001 at UNICEF House in New York, Covenant House followed up on these activities by being part of the NGO Steering Group Debriefing Session on the Third Preparatory Committee.

In preparation for the United Nations Special Session on Children, Covenant House continued to participate in the Steering Group's meetings that were held on July 24, July 27, August 7, August 14, August 22, August 28, September 4, September 5, September 10, September 18, September 25, November 13, 2001 and January 15, February 6, February 19, April 2, April 9, April 16, April 23 and May 5, 2002 at UNICEF House, New York. On May 6, Covenant House assisted in the orientation for all NGOs to the United Nations Special Session on Children at UNICEF House in New York.

Covenant House served as the main facilitator for all three of the NGO plenary sessions of the United Nations Special Session on Children that were held at the United Nations on May 9, May 9 and May 10 in New York. Covenant House was an editor of the NGO newspaper, "On the Record", which was issued daily during the United Nations Special Session on Children as well as the liaison for all NGOs from the Mid-East/North Africa region. Covenant House also actively participated in the NGO Child Rights Caucus in developing the NGO Alternative Statement to a World Fit for Children. Covenant House supported the NGO position of

referencing the Convention on the Rights of the Child as the focal point for the Nation States' Document: "A World Fit for Children". After the Special Session, Covenant House participated in a debriefing session of the Steering Group in New York on June 13, 2002.

On July 18 and 19 2002, Covenant House along with other United States NGOs formed a Committee for the United States Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at a meeting of the Child Welfare League of America that was held at the Child Welfare League of Canada's offices. On October 8, 2002 the Committee held its second national meeting at the offices of the Child Welfare League of America in Washington, D.C. On February 13 and 14, 2003, Covenant House sponsored at its New York Avenue offices a two-day symposium on the United States Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Later on May 1, 2003, the Committee established its formal structure and became the Campaign for the United States Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Covenant House was also elected the chair. In 2004, the Campaign began the organization of a Summit on the Convention on the Rights of the Child that will be held at American University in May 2006.

In 2003, Covenant House continued its active involvement with the NGO Committee on UNICEF its working groups and attended meetings January 22, April 25, June 18. Covenant House was an active member at the Annual General Meeting of June 1 and 2, 2003 in New York that determined the future course of the NGO Committee on UNICEF with respect to structure and areas of focus. Covenant House also participated in meetings to gather information for the United Nations Study on Violence Against Children throughout 2003 and 2004 at meetings in New York on September 18 and October 16, 2003 as well as in Toronto, Guatemala City and Geneva.

At the Annual General Meeting on June 5, 2004 in New York, Covenant House was elected to the position of Co-Chair of the NGO Committee on UNICEF. From this position, Covenant House assisted in the day-to-day management of the Committee, facilitated two major consultations on UNICEF Mid-Term Strategic Plan particularly in relation to the Millennium Development Goals and has developed a closer working partnership between the NGOs and UNICEF. The NGO Committee hosted a breakfast for the new Executive Director of UNICEF that was attended by over 25 CEO or CEO designates from the NGO Committee membership.

Additionally, in 2004, Covenant House presented on the Convention of the Rights of the Child at the Federation Internationale Communautes Educatives (FICE) Congress, held in Glasgow, Scotland, September 7-10, 2004. FICE represents Child Care and Rights Workers from approximately 30 European countries though attendees were from as far away as India.

In August of 2004, Covenant House Latin America (Casa Alianza) and UNICEF Latin America/Caribbean Region entered into a formal Memorandum of Understanding in order to work cooperatively with respect to children's rights and especially in the combating of child trafficking. From 2001-2004, Casa Alianza Honduras worked closely with the United Nations in reporting the extra-judicial murders of children and youth and has provided evidence to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

2. Foundation for International Training (Special consultative status granted in 1997)

The Foundation for International Training (FIT) was established in Canada, in 1976, as a non-profit, development services organization. FIT's mission is to further social and economic progress in developing countries by strengthening human capabilities. Its programs are designed to foster and increase the capacities of local institutions—voluntary, private or public—to strengthen human resources for development. This mission is predicated on the conviction that people—their institutions, skills and capabilities—are the most critical resources for development. Since its inception FIT has completed more than 500 projects in over 60 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East; these projects were financed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations agencies and the governments of developing countries. This report focuses on activities carried out during the period 2001-2004 in cooperation with United Nations (UN) agencies and in support of the UN's goals and objectives.

Between 2001 and 2004, FIT's contact and organizational information remained the same; FIT's core areas of activity also remain unchanged. A complete list of FIT's projects that were active during the reporting period 2001-2004.

Participation in the work of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies

FIT was unable to participate directly in meetings convened by ECOSOC during the reporting period. In spite of our interest in more direct participation, scheduling difficulties posed barriers to our attendance at those sessions to which FIT was invited in Geneva and New York. An additional constraint was our limited financial resources to cover the cost of travel to events that are outside Canada and not directly related to project activities. We do, however, carefully follow the reports and other documentation resulting from these sessions. We hope to be more active participants in ECOSOC meetings in the coming period.

Activities carried out in cooperation with other UN bodies or agencies

Identifying Disability Issues Related to Poverty Reduction

The culmination of this project was a region-wide workshop held at the ADB in Manila in October 2002. This workshop featured presentations made and panels chaired by representatives from UN agencies, including Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), International Labour Organization (ILO) and UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The workshop was the summing up of a regional project delivered under contract with the ABD in Cambodia, India, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. FIT carried out policy studies and organized sub-national and national level workshops where multiple stakeholders developed action plans to mainstream disability issues within national poverty reduction strategies. The project itself built upon the momentum of the recently-concluded Asian Decade of Disabled Persons which, in turn, had grown from the worldwide Decade of Disabled Persons and the General Assembly's adoption of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (Resolution 48/96).

Good Governance in Georgia

In 2004, FIT developed a concept paper in partnership with the UN Association of Georgia (UNAG). After conducting a preliminary program investigation mission, and consulting with various actors including the UN Development Programme (UNDP), FIT and UNAG proposed a strategy to promote effective civil society-community engagement in regional and local governance. This would, in turn, lead to sustainable economic development and a reduction in extreme poverty, thereby supporting both the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Government of Georgia's Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Program (EDPRP).

Child Rights Project (CRP), Sri Lanka

CRP is a member of the Coordinating Committee on training, which is led by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). This committee allows stakeholders to network and share information and resources. As part of this community, CRP has used FIT's capacity building strength to develop material which can be used for training of trainers in the North and East provinces of the country.

Initiatives undertaken in support of the overall goals and objectives of the UN

As the distillation of the most urgent priorities within development, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) not only overlapped with many of FIT's existing projects, but also helped chart a course for future initiatives. Through our work in a number of sectors and geographic areas FIT was involved with projects directly supporting the aims of all eight MDGs. As well, local participation, gender equality, capacity building and sustainability are cross-cutting themes in all FIT programs, reinforcing these UN priorities at all levels.

MDG 1: Small Enterprise Development in Upper Egypt (SMEDUP)

The Second Country Report for Egypt notes a large social and economic disparity between Upper and Lower Egypt. Without specialized interventions to make up for a lack of resources and agency in the governorates of Upper Egypt, this region is in danger of being left behind. FIT's SMEDUP project contributed to sustainable poverty alleviation by providing access to credit and business advisory services to support business start-ups in some of the poorest areas of Egypt. Although SMEDUP concluded in 2002, El Mobadara and three Regional Enterprise Development Centres (REDECs)—organizations developed through this project—continue to provide business development services with the goal of eliminating extreme poverty through job creation in Upper Egypt.

MDG 2: Sri Lanka Child Rights Project (CRP)

In addition to our collaboration with UNICEF, CRP's main project activities support the UN's mandate in a variety of ways. CRP's main objective of promoting and protecting the rights of children, particularly those in especially difficult circumstances, supports UNICEF's child protection mandate. As many children in Sri Lanka have been affected by conflict, forced into labour, or denied their primary caregiver following a parent's migration to seek employment, protection issues abound. CRP has many partners working on a number of child rights issues, including registering children and obtaining birth certificates for them. Other

sub-projects supported by the CRP contribute to MDG 2 regarding universal primary education, by addressing barriers to primary school enrolment and paving the way for future attainment of Target 16 regarding creation of strategies for productive work for youth.

MDG 3: Women's Initiative Fund (WIF)

One of the most important factors relating to women's empowerment is access to and control over resources. At its conclusion in 2001, WIF had been managed by FIT for 11 years, and had continuously adapted to the changing priorities and abilities of its main target group: female entrepreneurs and low-income women. WIF's aim was to increase economic opportunities for women through small and micro-enterprise development, which involved identifying and addressing the social needs of FIT's female clients, developing business advisory procedures, managing loan portfolios, and contracting with banks. This project was subsequently taken over by FIT's local partners who continue to work towards gender equality and empowerment of women.

MDGs 4 & 5: Participatory Development Program (PDP)

PDP works with civil society organizations in Egypt to strengthen their capacities in the areas of child protection, gender equality and participation. Although this Program also works towards Goal 3 and encourages local ownership of development, the PDP has a strong child protection component which furthers both MDG 4 and UNICEF's child protection policies. Furthermore, PDP's gender equality component addresses the strategic interests of women in Egypt. Many of PDP's partner organizations are concerned with health issues, specifically maternal and family health and children with disabilities. By the end of 2004, PDP had already identified and begun working with an initial cohort of 18 Egyptian organizations.

MDG 6: International Youth Internship Program (IYIP)

The International Youth Internship Program, sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), provides young professionals with the opportunity to work and live in communities overseas. In recognition of the seriousness of the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, FIT worked in partnership with two African organizations to create internship positions with the aim of raising awareness of HIV/AIDS, and also to create opportunities for those people already affected. In 2003 an intern worked with the Tanzania Media Women's Association to develop several HIV/AIDS prevention education initiatives. Three interns, one each in 2002 through 2004, worked with a South African community centre to integrate HIV/AIDS education and destigmatization into their community development work.

MDG 7: Small and Medium Enterprises Applied Management and Environment Project (SMEEP)

This program works with Small and Medium Enterprises in Jiangsu Province, China, to introduce cleaner production techniques and to ensure environmental sustainability while increasing profitability. This work supports both MDG 7 and the mandate of the United Nations Environmental Programme, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE), specifically in the area of technology transfer and industry. The enterprises that have

worked with SMEEP have developed their capacities to employ cleaner production techniques, environmentally sound technologies, sustainable consumption and industrial pollution management and, as a result, have greatly reduced hazards which had been affecting employees, community members and the surrounding environment.

MDG 8: Enhancing Civil Society Project (ECSP)

In order to develop a partnership for development that is truly global in scope, it is necessary to take into account areas that are vulnerable in ways that might be overlooked in favour of issues that are more geographically visible. MDG Target 14 is aimed at implementing the Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Through capacity development, training and management support, FIT's ECSP has been strengthening the abilities of Jamaica's community-based organizations to tackle pressing development issues through community engagement. The Project has also worked directly with local government councils to promote participatory planning and engagement of community organizations and citizens in sustainable development planning. With extensive community participation and engagement, Jamaica's community-based organizations are ensuring the sustainability of their own development.

Active FIT Projects, 2001-2004

- Bangladesh

  Private Voluntary Development Organization Capacity Development Project (1997 – 2001)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Croatia, Egypt, India, Jamaica, South Africa, Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania

  International Youth Internship Program (1998 – Present)
- Cambodia, India, the Philippines and Sri Lanka

  Identifying Disability Issues Related to Poverty Reduction (2001 - 2002)
- Canada, China

  China Study Missions(June 1990 – Present)
- China

  Small and Medium Enterprises Applied Management and Environment Project (1998 – 2007)

  Egypt

  Participatory Development Program (2003 – 2008)

  Small Enterprise Development in Upper Egypt (1996 – 2003)

  Women's Initiative Fund (1990 – 2001)
- Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

  Baltic Initiatives Program (1999 – 2004)

- Ethiopia

  National Training Capacity Supply and Demand Study; National Training Workshop; Public Sector Capacity Building Program (2004 – 2005)

- Jamaica

  Enhancing Civil Society Project (1998 – 2005)

- Romania

  Capacity Strengthening for the Graduate School of Management (1998 – 2001)

- Sri Lanka

  Child Rights Project (2001 – 2006)

3. International Association of Democratic Lawyers (Special consultative status granted in 1969)

In the following sections of the Report, the I.A.D.L. wishes to draw the Committee's attention to its deep and abiding commitment to the work of the United Nations.

I.A.D.L.'s Organizational Mission

The aims of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (I.A.D.L.), a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with consultative status to ECOSOC and represented at UNESCO and UNICEF are:

1. To work together to achieve the aims set out in the Charter of the United Nations;

2. To facilitate contact and exchange of views between and among lawyers and lawyers' associations of all countries to foster understanding and goodwill among them;

3. To ensure common action by lawyers;

4. In the realm of law, the study and practice of the principles of democracy to encourage the maintenance of peace and co-operation among nations;

5. To restore, defend and develop democratic rights and liberties in legislation and in practice;

6. To defend and promote human and peoples' rights;

7. To promote the preservation of ecology and healthy environments;

8. To struggle for strict adherence to the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary and legal profession; and

9. To defend all peoples' rights to development and for conditions of economic equality and the enjoyment of the fruits of scientific progress and natural resources.

I.A.D.L. Membership

I.A.D.L. members committed to the mission set forth above include national affiliated organizations of lawyers, legal educators and juridical professional in more than ninety (90) countries. Individual lawyers, jurists, legal educators and law students who are not members of national affiliates from any nation state are also included in our membership.

Funding of I.A.D.L. Activities

I.A.D.L. activities and projects are funded by membership dues paid by affiliates and individual members and not-for-profit organizations that support the goals and mission of the Association and the specific projects being organized. For example, I.A.D.L. received funding for a study on Racism and Racial Discrimination from UNESCO in 2004.

Activities of I.A.D.L. for 2001-2004

2001 - met with Mr. Andrew Grene, Secretary, Special Committee, Department of Peacekeeping (15 January, U.N. Headquarters, NY, hereinafter "UNNY"); co-sponsored Conference on "Lawyers Against Racism and Fascism" (17-18 February, Rome, Italy); attended Preparatory Commission for ICC (26 February - 9 March, UNNY); attended Commission on the Status of Women (6-16 March, UNNY); formed, with the International Center for Trade Union Rights (ICTUR), the International Commission for Labor Rights (16 June, Geneva); participated in International War Crimes Tribunal on US Crimes in Korea, 1945-2001 (June, Riverside Church, NY); organized delegation to World Conference Against Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (31 August- 7 September, Durban, South Africa), and held workshop on "The Legal Basis for the Claim of Reparations" and "Neo-liberal Globalization" (30 August, Durban City Hall); attended UN General Assembly Special Session on AIDS (25-27 September, UNNY); attended CONGO meeting on NGO access to U.N. Headquarters (23 October, UN Church Centre); co-organized International Conference of Lawyers on Palestine, International Law and Peace, Paris (November); chaired NGO Committee on Southern Africa (January-March 2001, UN Church Centre, NY); co-sponsored Conference of Lawyers of Asia and the Pacific (COLAP-III) (19-21 October, Hanoi, Viet Nam).

2002 - attended Commission on Status of Women (4-15 March, UNNY); attended session of Special Committee on the Charter (18-29 March, UNNY); participated in first planning meeting for International Legal Conference on Reparations for Africans and African Descendants, a post-WCAR initiative (June, Detroit, Michigan); participated in ICC Preparatory Committee(1-2 July, UNNY); co-sponsored Conference on Aftermath of 9.11, London (May); attended Security Council meeting on "The Situation between Iraq and Kuwait"(16 October, UNNY); attended panel discussion on Iraq and the Use of Force Under International Law (24-26 October, at Bar Association of the City of New York); participated in ICC/Assembly of State Parties (3-10 September, UNNY); attended U.N. International Conference on Civil Society in Support of the Palestinian People (23-24 September, UNNY); attended Human Rights Day (10 December, U.N. Church Centre).

2003 - attended Security Council meeting on legality of Iraq War (27 March, UNNY); attended Commission on Status of Women (3-14 March, UNNY); participated in Informal General Assembly Meeting with NGO Representatives (17 April, UNNY); co-sponsored International Conference on Peace on the Korean Peninsula and played leading role as Chief Judge and Chief Prosecutor in Pyongyang International Tribunal (19 - 29 July, Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea); sponsored delegation to Sub-commission, Human Rights Commission, which presented written statement [circulated 14 July 2003 as

E/CN/Sub.2/2003/NGO/12], "Forgotten War, Forgotten Victims, and Forgotten Crimes," on Korean War (August); attended ICC/Third Assembly of States Parties (8-12 September, UNNY); attended Conference in Support of the Palestinian People (4-5 September, UNNY); attended CONGO Information Session on the work of the General Assembly (20 November, UNNY); delegation to Vietnam on Agent Orange compensation (November); attended Human Rights Day (10 December, UNNY); attended NGO Forum on Iraq, sponsored by NGO Committee on Disarmament (11 December); attended NGO Committees' Forum on "Decade for Education for Sustainable Development" (11 December); attended NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples (20 November, U.N. Church Centre); drafted Charter for International People's Tribunal on the Aggression Against Iraq (November-December); meeting of International Commission for Labor Rights in Geneva (2003); co-submitted two amicus briefs to the Israeli High Court challenging Israeli policy of targeted assassination and the Security Wall; participated in Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (13 October, Vienna); and Vienna Committee on the Status of Women; attended meeting of UNESCO Executive Council (August) and drafted a proposed international instrument to protect world cultural heritage.

2004 - attended planning meetings of the NGO Committee on the Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples for Permanent Forum on indigenous issues (22 January and 26 February); attended NGO Briefing on "Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and Racism: New Perspectives on Old Menaces" (22 January, UNNY); attended events on collective theme of trauma interventions and conflict prevention, sponsored by NGO Committee on Human Rights (12 February and 4 March, UNNY or Church Centre) and NGO Committee on Mental Health (10 February and 11 March, UNNY or Church Centre); attended ECOSOC Informal Panel on Reforms (7 May, UNNY or Church Centre); attended ECOSOC meeting for NGO contributions on poverty eradication in LDC's for High Level Segment meeting on 28-30 June (18 March, UNNY or Church Centre); attended Human Rights Commission (March-April, Geneva); attended Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (10 - 21 May, UNNY); co-sponsored International People's Tribunal on the Aggression Against Iraq, Berlin (June); participated in Sub-Commission meeting of UN Human Rights Commission (26 July- 13 August, Geneva); sponsored Conference on "New Dimensions of Terrorism" (20-21 November, Parliament House Annex, New Delhi, India); participated in NGO Alliance on Crime Prevention (22 November, Vienna); attended NGO Committee on the Status of Women (30 September, Vienna); published Racism and Racial Discrimination: A Study Submitted to UNESCO (published by IADL 2004, printed at Everest Press, New Delhi).

As discussed in this Quadrennial Report, since its founding, the I.A.D.L. has based its activities, legal strategies and international campaigns on the principles of the U.N. Charter. We support all U.N. initiatives and disseminate information about U.N. activities to our affiliates and members throughout the world. The I.A.D.L. pledges its consistent and unqualified support of the U.N. as the only hope for world peace and the ultimate eventual achievement of economic, social and legal rights of all the peoples of the world.

4. International Centre for Ethnic Studies (Special consultative status granted in 1997)

The International Centre for Ethnic Studies(ICES) has through the years strived to evolve a model of historically sensitive theoretical, empirical research in ethnicity, social and political process. Human Rights, Peace Reconciliation, Constitutionalism have been central to the concerns of ICES. Since 1982, the centre has engaged in research and policy formulation programmes and projects in the areas of Violence Against Women, Constitutionalism, Militarization and Gender, Economic Reforms Post 1977 era, Social Suffering, Diversity and Pluralism, and Minority Rights. Although the death of Neelan Tiruchelvam was an irreplaceable loss for ICES Colombo, the staff of the centre is determined to carry his vision forward in consolidating ICES and planning its future programmes. The Centre has been enriched via intensive dialogue with political activists and thinkers and through detailed archival work. Key issues of the centre have been: the advancement of human rights; the contribution toward international cohesion; promotion of international peace; contribution towards a more equitable development process.

ICES Activities:

ICES Colombo continued to house the office of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Dr Radika Coomaraswamy till her term ended in April 2003. Many background papers were prepared for her visits to Colombia, Sierra Leone, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. ICES also continues to maintain archives on issues of Violence Against women in particular to South Asia. Since August 2001 more than 800 new documents have been added to the archives at the Centre. These mainly consist of unpublished material including reports on various aspects of violence against women.

1. United Nations International Conferences

The World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR) 31 August - 8 September,Durban, South Africa:

ICES has long been engaged in conceptualizing, analyzing, and working towards solutions to race and ethnic conflicts and violence in the region. Drawing from its research capabilities and experience in the field, ICES objectives at the WCAR were to contribute both conceptually and practically to the WCAR deliberations. One of it's objectives at the WCAR was to make substantial interventions especially on the interactions between race and gender and ethnicity, race and caste and to act as a catalyst in the race and ethnicity discourse that has begun in Sri Lanka. Although attention has been paid to the effects of conflict on issues of identity etc., the race and ethnicity dialogue has not been given much importance in conflict and post-conflict areas.

Preparatory Meetings:

- The first step in conceptualizing and developing ICES' role and project for the United Nations World Conference on Racism was participation at the Asia Pacific Preparatory meetings held in Teheran on February 17-22, 2001.

- ICES was able to further strengthen its regional and global network at the Asia Pacific Networking Meeting held in Kathmandu in April 2001.

-ICES representatives lobbied actively and made a noteworthy intervention at the Second Preparatory Commission. in Geneva, in May and June 2001.

-In addition to the regional meetings and Prep Comm., ICES organized many local level meetings to evaluate plans for the WCAR and also to generate ideas for follow-up activity.

At The World Conference:

In addition to lobbying, networking and making interventions, ICES conducted a panel discussion and art exhibition titled 'Youth, Militarization and Exclusion' in Durban. The three papers presented at the panel discussion were:

- Colonialism and the Inter: ection of Racism and Descent-based forms of Discrimination in South Asia by Dr. Darini Rajasingham.
- Identity within: Cultural Relativism, Minority Rights and the Empowerment of Women by Dr. Radhika Coomaraswamy
- Reinterpreting Ethnic Tensions in Sri Lanka: The Impact of Social Discrimination on Youth and Violent Conflict by Dr. Markus Mayer.

A publication comprising these three papers was published in 2004.

2. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and its subsidiary bodies

ICES was represented by its Director at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights Sessions as well as the United Nations Working Group on Minorities.

Working Group on Minorities:

At the Seventh Sessions of the Working Group held in May **2001**. A brief overview was given of regional activities organized by ICES in the area of minority rights, which included a training workshop on minority rights and minority-related human rights mechanisms as well as a workshop on advisory services.

-ICES also completed a project on Minority Rights in 2004, this project was initiated with three broad objectives. Firstly, that a detailed examination of experiences, achievements and shortfalls of minority/majority arrangements in the region will provide valuable input to the further deliberations of the United Nations Working Group on Minorities. Secondly, to link the efforts of civil society and regional governments to develop clarity on minority rights and obligations as well as to promote understanding between ethnic groups that are engaging in, or could engage in, confrontational politics. Finally, that a critical mass of empirical experience will emerge from this exercise that could constitute an appropriate basis for further exploration on the viability of establishing some form of advisory services at the regional, national and/or local levels.

-At the level of cooperation with the United Nations Working Group on Minorities, the ICES project focused on two objectives. Firstly it was based on the United Nations Declaration on Minorities

and the mandate of the United Nations Working Group on Minorities, at the same time it also was designed to operate independently of the United Nations processes as that will enable it to address concerns more effectively and pro-actively at the national and regional levels.

Commission on Human Rights:

In April 2003 the organization's representative attended the 59th session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

3. Other examples of actions in implementation of United Nations resolutions and consultative and substantive activities:

- The International Centre for Ethnic Studies co-launched the Human Development Report 2004 in Sri Lanka with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A researcher of the ICES made a presentation at the launch where she engaged with the issues discussed in the report from a South Asian perspective.
- The Director of ICES attended a meeting in Bangkok; Beijing + 10 Regional Review in 7-10 September 2004 (UNESCAP High level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and its Regional and Global Outcomes
- Dr. Radhika Coomaraswamy was also invited to be a part of a three member advisory team to carry out an assessment of UNIFEM's status, role and structure in the UN system

4. Regional/National Initiatives:

The regional work of ICES Colombo in the South Asian region continued throughout the 2000-2003 period with the inauguration of the project on Diversity and Pluralism in South Asia.

The project works closely with the many official institutions set up to protect human rights and minority rights and attempts to strengthen their capacity to deal with the rights of minorities and local communities. It is supplemented by the ICES advisory services project that attempts to train government officials and NGO activists on international standards with regard to the rights of minorities. ICES has formulated a comprehensive toolkit for this training course on minority rights that has received the endorsement of Mary Robinson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The toolkit provides readers with guidance on the international human rights instruments available and the United Nations mechanisms which may be used to submit information and complaints regarding individual and collective human rights violations. It details practical information on fact-finding, how to submit information and use the procedures. It points to some avenues which are available for readers to lobby for change at the international level.

-In year 2002 ICES celebrated its twentieth anniversary. The Colombo office began functioning on the 2nd of August 1982, under the leadership of Dr. Neelan Tiruchelvam. Since then it has developed into a full-fledged research organisation that also engages in a measure of activism. To celebrate this, a 20 day course on Ethnicity, Identity and Conflict was introduced bringing together Sri Lankan scholars living abroad as well as in Sri Lanka to participate as faculty members.

-In 2-5 May 2002, ICES hosted an International Conference on Women, Peace Building and Constitution Making involving fifty international participants and seventy-five local participants.

-ICES Colombo continues to be interested in issues of Women and Governance. The study involving country profiles and analysis of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal and original research via questionnaires and participant observation was completed and a book was launched based on the finding in 2003.

-Throughout the period 2001-2004, ICES continued to serve the larger intellectual community with a series of lectures, media programmes and cultural events. ICES inaugurated the Millennium Lecture series, inviting leading thinkers to visit and present their work. The lectures generally coincided with the death anniversary of the late Dr. Neelan Tiruchelvam. Michael Ignatieff, Patricia Sellers, Amitav Ghosh, Alex Boraine, Asma Jehangir and Valentine Daniel were some of the invitees who came to Sri Lanka and delivered these lectures.

5. International Press Institute
(Special consultative status granted in June 1993)

The International Press Institute (IPI) is a global network of editors, media executives and leading journalists, dedicated to protecting and furthering freedom of the press and improving the standards and practises of journalism. The main objectives of IPI are therefore: To protect freedom of opinion and expression; To further and safeguard freedom of the press; To ensure free access to news, regardless of national boundaries; To ensure the safety of journalists and their ability to report freely; To improve the practices of journalism; To increase understanding between peoples. Editors, leading journalists, and media executives from over 115 countries are integrated into this global network, which focuses on the protection of freedom of expression and opinion as a fundamental human right, as stated in Article 19 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Freedom of expression has been furthered by IPI through the organisation of events and the publication of reports, booklets and magazines, in particular through the annual IPI World Press Freedom Review. The 2003 report was published with sponsoring from UNESCO.

The following report focuses on IPI Activities in relation with United Nations principles, United Nations Bodies and Specialised Agencies

January 2001 – New Delhi, INDIA: **Klaus Schmitter**, Senior Programme Specialist, Freedom of Expression, Democracy and Peace Programme, UNESCO, addressed the participants at the IPI World Congress in New Delhi, at the session "Freedom of Expression in the IT Era". Keynote speakers at the congress were Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajapayee, Indian Minister of External Affairs, **Jaswant Singh**, and His Holiness, the **Dalai Lama**.

May 2001 – Beirut, LEBANON: Together with the Institute for Professional Journalists at the Lebanese American University, with support of UNESCO, IPI organised a seminar called

"Freedom of Expression and the Media in Lebanon". Keynote speaker was Emile Lahoud, President of Lebanon.

May 2001 – Windhoek, NAMIBIA: IPI representatives took part at a seminar in Windhoek, organised by UNESCO on the 10th Anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration.

March 2002 – Beirut, LEBANON: IPI representatives participated in a round-table on "Professional Ethics, Media Legislation & Freedom of Expression in Lebanon". Organised by the Lebanese American University's Institute for Professional Journalists (IPJ), UNESCO and IPI.

April 2002 – Almaty, KAZAKHSTAN: IPI representatives attended and spoke at the first Eurasia Media Forum, organised by the Khabar Agency. **Henrikas** Yushkiavitshus, advisor to director general, UNESCO, and the IPI Director, spoke on the issue of "Eurasia - The Role Of The Media. Media Cultures - East-West Attitudes". Keynote speakers were President of Kazakhstan, **Nursultan Nazarbayev**, and President of Iran, **Mohammad Khatami**.

May 2002 – Ljubljana, SLOVENIA: **Jiri Dienstbier**, Ambassador-at-Large; former Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic; UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1998-2001), chaired a session on "Visions for the Balkans" at the IPI World Congress in Ljubljana. In addition to the President of the Parliament of Slovenia, **Borut Pahor**, the President of Montenegro, **Milo Djukanovic**, President of Croatia, **Stjepan Mesic**, and the member of the Presidency, Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Zivko Radisic**, spoke at the session. **Erhard Busek**, Special Coordinator, Stability Part for South Eastern Europe, Brussels, and **Wolfgang Petritsch**, High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, analysed the issue "What Went Wrong in the Balkans".

September 2002 – Dakar, SENEGAL: An IPI representative attended the 10th General Meeting of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), which brought together more than 90 free expression advocates from 52 countries to discuss freedom of expression issues, develop regional networking, and strategise on joint action campaigns.

November 2002 – Vienna, AUSTRIA: The Coordinating Committee of Press Freedom Organisations met in Vienna in conjunction with the Vienna Secretariat's tenth anniversary celebration. In addition to the President of Austria, **Thomas Klestil**, the President of the Austrian Parliament, **Heinz Fischer**, and the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Benita Ferrero-Waldner**, **Sergio Vieira de Mello**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, was the keynote speaker at a special evening event, while **Freimut Duve**, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media spoke over luncheon to the members of the Coordinating Committee.

December 2002 – Paris, FRANCE: IPI representatives attended the meeting of the Council of Europe's Committee on Culture, Science and Education. Item 7 of the Agenda, "Freedom of Expression in the Media", was reserved for **(a)** an exchange of views between members of the Committee and representatives from IPI and Reporters sans Frontières and **(b)** consideration of a draft report on freedom of expression in the media in Europe.

April 2003 – Almaty, KAZAKHSTAN: IPI representatives attended and spoke at the second Eurasia Media Forum. IPI was asked to organise two panel sessions entitled "Journalists under Pressure", which gave a platform to prominent press freedom campaigners from Central Asia and the Caucasus to address the participants, and provided an opportunity for IPI ideas on media freedom to be expressed openly in local media. The Advisor to Director-General, Mr. **Henrikas Yushkiavitshus** delivered the welcome note from the Director-General of UNESCO **Koichiro Matsuura**. Again, the keynote speaker was President of Kazakhstan, **Nursultan Nazarbayev**.

April 2003 – Vienna, AUSTRIA: The IPI Director attended a conference on "The Media and the Information Society", organised by the Austrian Federal Chancellery as part of the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

September 2003 – Salzburg, AUSTRIA: **Mogens Schmidt**, Director, Division of Freedom of Expression, Democracy and Peace, UNESCO, Paris, spoke at the IPI World Congress in Salzburg, participating at the session "Pluralism, Democracy and the Clash of Civilisations". **Alain Modoux**, Senior Adviser to UNESCO for the WSIS, Geneva, spoke at the session on the World Summit on the Information Society. **Maria Cheng**, Spokesperson, Communicable Diseases Section, World Health Organisation (WHO), Geneva, addressed the participants on "SARS and the Media" and **Sir Peter Ustinov**, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador , a volunteer for UNESCO, was a keynote speaker at the congress on the issue of the "Transatlantic Rift". Another keynote speaker was Austrian Chancellor **Wolfgang Schüssel**. **Yossi Beilin**, former Justice Minister and former Deputy Foreign Minister of Israel, spoke at an interview session on the issue of "The Oslo Accords – 10 Years On".

September 2003 – Bucharest, ROMANIA: IPI and Romanian Radio Broadcasting Corporation, in cooperation with the Council of Europe, organised an international conference on "How to Guarantee Independent Public Service Broadcasting". The conference sought to analyse - ten years after the 1993 IPI symposium "From State-Controlled Broadcasting to Public Broadcasting" and the adoption of the Vienna Declaration on Public Broadcasting. Representatives of public service broadcasters from Central and Eastern Europe, as well as from the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), the European Commission and international NGOs, took part in the IPI conference. Keynote speakers included **Peter Schieder**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, **Ion Iliescu**, President of Romania, and the Prime Minister **Adrian Nastase**.

December 2003 – Geneva, SWITZERLAND: the IPI Director attended the biannual meeting of the Coordinating Committee of Press Freedom Organisations, which was held in conjunction with the UN-sponsored World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). **Shashi Tharoor**, United Nations Undersecretary General for Communications and Public Information, discussed with the Coordinating Committee various UN related issues of basic interest to the group.

December 2003 – Paris, FRANCE: The IPI Director during the seminar, "Israeli and Palestinian Media Professionals: Renewing the Dialogue", chaired the session "Independence of the Media and the Maintenance of Professional Standards." The meeting was organised by

UNESCO in order to provide a platform for Palestinian and Israeli media professionals to discuss matters of common concern and explore venues for possible cooperation.

May 2004 – Warsaw, POLAND: In the presence of over 400 media representatives from 47 nations, at the session "Holding Member States of IGOs to their Press Freedom Commitments" **Santiago Canton**, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Organization of American States (OAS); **Miklos Haraszti**, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media; **Paschal Mooney**, General Rapporteur on the Media, Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe; and **Henrikas Yushkiavitshus**, former Assistant Director-General for Communication, Information and Informatics, UNESCO, were available for discussions with participants of this IPI World Congress. **Aleksander Kwasniewski**, President of Poland, and the Prime Minister **Marek Belka**, former President **Lech Walensa**, and former Prime Minister **Tadeusz Mazowiecki**, were among the keynote speakers, as well as **Milan Kucan**, former President of Slovenia, and **Bronislaw Geremek**, Politician and Historian; former Minister of Foreign Affairs.

December 2004 – Vienna, AUSTRIA: Round table "5 years of WHO/IPI Guidelines for Professional Health Correspondents", as originally adopted in 1999 during a meeting of the European Health Communication Network in Copenhagen (keynote speaker **Karsten Koch**, Danish Minister of Health).

Over the period covered by this report, IPI also undertook many more initiatives in defending and furthering press freedom, and freedom of expression, of which we would like to mention:

INSI: At the beginning of 2003, IPI, in cooperation with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) founded the International News Safety Institute (INSI), a non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting practical actions and fostering good practice in the provision of safety training and assistance to journalists and media staff everywhere. INSI was then officially launched in Brussels on 3 May 2003, World Press Freedom Day. It was simultaneously launched at a meeting organised by UNESCO in Jamaica. Led and managed by media professionals, INSI is a coalition of media organisations (print, broadcasting, and news agencies), press freedom groups, journalists' unions and humanitarian campaigners working to create a culture of safety in media in all corners of the world.

CASCFEN: An initiative of the IPI Azerbaijan National Committee (IPI ANC), the Central Asian and Southern Caucasian Freedom of Expression Network (CASCFEN) was set up in Baku, Azerbaijan in March 2003 during a meeting attended by the IPI Director. CASCFEN currently includes eight journalists organizations from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan with the purpose of promoting freedom of expression and professional journalism in the region. Today, this information network is already integrated into the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), based in Toronto.

SEEMO: The South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO), a specialised IPI network of editors, media executives and leading journalists from newspapers, magazines, radio, TV stations, news agencies and internet media, was founded in October 2000 in Zagreb, Croatia. It

encompasses the region of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro, and Romania. Its chief activities are the promotion of mutual understanding through dialogue meetings of media representatives from the various national, ethnic and religious groups. SEEMO publishes a magazine for the region "De Scripto", as well as a Media Handbook with media reports and contact addresses of leading media in each of these countries.

May 2002 – Ljubljana, SLOVENIA: Dialogue of 80 editors from South East Europe (SEE) – keynote speaker **Erhard Busek**, Special Coordinator, Stability Pact for South East Europe; **Klaus Schmitter**, Senior Programme Specialist, Freedom of Expression, UNESCO; **Alain Modoux**, former UNESCO director, Freedom of Expression.

November 2002 – Skopje, THE former YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC of MACEDONIA: Dialogue of editors from the region of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

March 2003 – Podgorica, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO Dialogue of editors from Serbia and Montenegro.

May 2003 – Ohrid, THE former YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC of MACEDONIA: Dialogue of editors on conflict prevention in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

July 2003 – Belgrade, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO: Dialogue of representatives from Roma media in SEE.

September 2003 – Salzburg, AUSTRIA: Dialogue of editors from Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Vojvodina.

October 2003 – Opatja, CROATIA: Dialogue of editors from Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro.

November 2003 – Skopje, THE former YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC of MACEDONIA: Meeting of editors and directors of private news agencies in SEE.

May 2004 – Belgrade, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO: Participation at the UNESCO World Press Freedom Day Conference.

May 2004 – Sofia, BULGARIA: Minority Media – Vlachian/Aromanian in SEE.

June 2004 – Neum, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: Media Dialogue of editors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, different ethnic groups.

October 2004 – Vienna, AUSTRIA: Press freedom round table with **Miklos Haraszti**, OSCE Representative for Freedom of the Media.